

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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O 201638Z MAY 75 ZFF-1

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1920

S E C R E T USNATO 2814

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO FR OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD)

SUBJ: LUNS' VIEWS ON REPORTED PLANS FOR MEETING BETWEEN
GISCARD AND THE PRESIDENT

1. LUNS TOLD ME, IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE MAY 20, OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT GISCARD AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD MEET IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE NATO SUMMIT.
 2. REFERRING TO AN ARTICLE BY FRED EMERY PUBLISHED IN THE LONDON TIMES MAY 19, LUNS SAID HE RAISED THE SUBJECT BECAUSE THE TIMES ARTICLE, WHICH STATED, "THE UNEXPECTED MEETING ARRANGED IN BRUSSELS BETWEEN MR. FORD AND M. GISCARD D'ESTAING APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT A LINGERING HOPE THAT THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WILL RELENT AND ATTEND THE NATO CONFERENCE", HAD MADE THE POSSIBILITY OF A BILATERAL MEETING A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. BASED ON INFORMATION GIVEN HIM ON A HIGHLY PERSONAL BASIS, LUNS UNDERSTOOD THAT GISCARD HAD ASKED TO BE INVITED TO THE BELGIAN KING'S DINNER ON MAY 29 SINCE HE PLANNED TO BE IN BRUSSELS THEN TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. THE BELGIANS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD INVITE GISCARD TO THE DINNER ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE DINNER, NOT BECAUSE OF OTHER PLANS.
 3. LUNS SAID IT WAS DEPLORABLE THAT GISCARD WOULD NOT COME
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TO THE NATO MEETING. IF THE US HAD INVITED GISCARD TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD, HE SAID, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF THE US ALSO HAD PROPOSED ANOTHER PLACE FOR THE MEETING, SINCE GISCARD'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF THE COUNCIL MEET-

ING AT SUMMIT LEVEL AND HIS FAILURE TO ATTEND WOULD BE RE-
GARDED AS "A SLAP IN THE FACE" OF THE COUNCIL. MORE-
OVER, SINCE GISCARD WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, LUNS
BELIEVED IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE US "WAS QUITE HAPPY WITH
THIS ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION". IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE,
LUNS SAID, IF THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED TO MEET GISCARD IN, SAY,
LUXEMBOURG. THE APPARENT SNUB OF NATO WOULD BE LESS, IN LUNS'
VIEW, IF GISCARD MADE AN APPEARANCE AT LEAST AT THE CEREMONIAL
OPENING OF THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE DINNER ON MAY 29.

4. LUNS ALSO REPORTED THAT GISCARD WAS SAID TO HAVE WANTED
TO SEND CHIRAC TO THE SUMMIT, AND THAT CHIRAC WAS FURIOUS
BECAUSE, AS THE LEADING GAULLIST, HE DID NOT WISH TO TAKE THE
BLAME FOR MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATING FRANCE WITH NATO. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, VISIT, SUMMIT MEETING, ITINERARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02814
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P840176-0265
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaattq.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NATO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PREL, OVIP, FR, NATO, (FORD, GERALD R), (D'ESTAING, GISCARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006